he Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION Thursday, November 3, 1994

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Relief effort "God's instrument," say Haitian Baptists

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti (BP) -Planned Southern Baptist relief efforts in Haiti are "God's instrument" that will help bring change to the politically and socially ravaged nation, say Haitian Baptists.

'As Lazarus was buried and resurrected, so will the Baptist Convention of Haiti" rise again, said an emotional Delinse Jean, president of the convention.

The convention offices were burned the day after a September 1991 coup ousted freely elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Most of the building is still under renovation.

Jean and other Haitian Baptist officials met Oct. 19 with a delegation of Southern Baptist officials assessing the country's needs.

"We may have many political and social problems in our country, but we know that Jesus Christ is the only solution," Jean told the group. "We know during these difficult times we must not miss the opportunity to share Christ with the people.

"The presence of the Southern Baptist delegation here is a response to our prayers," he added. "This is an instrument God is using for change in the country."

The assessment team arrived in

Haiti Oct. 16 to lay the groundwork that will bring more than 200 Southern Baptist volunteers and thousands of dollars to Haiti for relief efforts. The Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board are jointly sponsoring the relief effort.

The top concern for Southern Baptist planners is organizing food distribution. Without food,

the situation will quickly turn to chaos in a country where people are hungry and still feeling the effects of an international embar-

Southern Baptist volunteer teams to arrive in coming weeks will handle the packaging and dis-tribution of "family packs" — containing basis commodities of rice, beans, oil, and flour, as well as an evangelistic tract. Haitian Baptists are being asked to give out tickets to help ensure orderly distribution of the packs.

Problems in transporting supplies and scarcity of resources will limit food distribution initially, Peggy Rutledge, Southern Baptist missionary, told Haitian Baptists. Haitian churches will be asked to help with the distribution effort — both as a way to meet their members' needs and as a means of outreach to needy families in their communities.

Plans to secure free relief food do not appear to be an option at present because of the constant looting of storage facilities. Up to 4,000 break-ins at food warehouse facilities have depleted more than \$3 million in relief food, according to officials of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Restocking the warehouses will take another three months.

Although no free relief food remains, Port-au-Prince does have food supplies that can be pur-chased for distribution, USAID reports.

Unless the food distribution effort is well-organized, what Southern Baptists do in Haiti could "turn against us quickly," said Joel Dorsinville, Haitian Baptist convention vice president.

CHECKING HAITI'S WATER WELLS - Young Haitian girls watch as Ed Brentham, an International Service Corps worker with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, checks a water pump at Leogane, about 30 miles outside Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Volunteers with plumbing skills will be needed in early 1995 to make up four-member teams who will repair or replace an estimated 500 of the country's water wells. Extensive Southern Baptist relief efforts, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission and the mission board, also will include food distribution and basic medical care. First relief teams are expected to reach Haiti in November. (BP photo by Tim Yarbrough)

Share Christ, meet needs

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — Volunteer teams will start work in Haiti as early as Nov. 9 as part of Southern Baptist relief efforts in the country.

The Foreign Mission Board and Brothernood Commission are jointly sponsoring relief work in Haiti. The agencies are working with the Baptist Convention of Haiti to set the plan in motion.

"Our goal is to provide volunteers with an opportunity to share Christ and meet human needs at the same time," said Mickey Caisson, Brotherhood's disaster relief director. "This won't be easy, but nothing of eternal concern ever is."

Southern Baptists interested in volunteering for the Haiti relief effort may contact their state Brotherhood Department. Or they may contact Rusty Griffin or Mickey Causson at the Brotherhood Commission at 1-800-280-1891 or (901) 722-3787. Those interested in making a financial contribution to the relief effort may send it to Southern Baptist World Relief, Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 33104 or to the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767, More information on the volunteer relief effort may be obtained by calling the numbers listed above. volunteer relief effort may be obtained by calling the numb

Reaching out to all

Multiculturalism may have gotten a bad name in the political world, but multicultural ministries are a must in America's diverse society - if The Great Commission is to be taken seriously, according to Ramon Martinez, director of multicultural leadership at the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville. "Almost all nations of the world are represented in the United States. Why they are here is not the question. The question is how are we going to minister to them, present the gospel, and win them to the Lord," Martinez said. To emphasize the importance of that message, BSSB recently changed the name of Martinez' department from ethnic and black church growth to multicultural leadership. Martinez pointed to the diversity of Southern Baptists' elected leaders as indication of the denomination's growing acceptance of multicultural ministries. President Jim Henry is caucasian; first vice-president Simon Tsoi is Chinese-American; second vice-president Gary Frost is African-American. "Diversity is not the numbers... but the representation," Martinez said.

Baptist youths are tops

Baptist young people are considerably less likely to engage in risky behavior but aren't likely to find support among their friends, according to a recent survey by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. While 72% of the Baptist youths in the survey said they don't use alcohol, 50% said their closest friends drink, Likewise, 85% of the Baptist young people in the survey said they are virgins but also reported that nearly half of their friends are sexually active. Where illegal drug use other than alcohol is concerned, 95% of the Baptist youths said they avoid it while 18% of their friends are users. "Youth who are actively involved in our churches are overcomers. Even though their closest friends are at risk, most of our kids are behaving counter-culturally in a positive sense," said Chris Liebrum, who conducted the survey. Half of the surveyed youths also said their parents maintain a good balance of discipline at home, and that they always feel loved and affirmed by their

10 years ago

Evelyn George, preschool and children's work consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Training Department, announces she will retire after more than 25 years at the Baptist Building.

20 years ago

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Hospital Auxiliary mark their 20th anniversary of service to the institution. The auxiliary has grown from 42 charter members in 1954 to the present membership of 182.

50 years ago

The Chaplain of the Army in Washington, D.C., issues an urgent request for 35 additional Southern Baptist chaplains as fierce fighting rages all around American G.I.s in the European and Pacific theaters of war.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK.

=Guy Henderson

Auld lang syne

Friend is a word we carelessly sling around and has a "have a nice day" depth. True friendship runs deep and is capable of such abounding qualities that we gasp in amazement. "A friend loveth at all time" (Prov. 17:17). Jesus was called a "friend of publicans," and said, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth," as if it were some noble title awarded to few men. To his followers he said, "But I have called you friends."

Friends are needed and if you have a thousand there is scarce one to spare. Physically, emotionally, and spiritually, we are indebted to our friends. Admittedly there are "fair weather" friends, but wealthy is the person capable of being a friend, for he shall have many. How often have we identified with Rudyard Kipling's soldier declaring to his servant.

"Though I've belted you and flayed you,

flayed you, By the living Gawd that made You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din"?

It is not difficult to ascertain that there are good Christian people being "belted and flayed" in the day we live. It's so easy to be critical in a crowd of critics. Perfection has eluded all of us and "It's me, it's me O Lord, standing

in the need of prayer."

The "belts" have worn thin, even in the ranks of the SBC. Television preachers get the loud amens when attacking other personalities. Snap judgments are nailed to the walls of our mind as we seek out evidence to support them

In our Convention, our colleges and seminaries have felt the stinging lash... and often returned the same. Is it asking too much for Christians to at least be friendly?

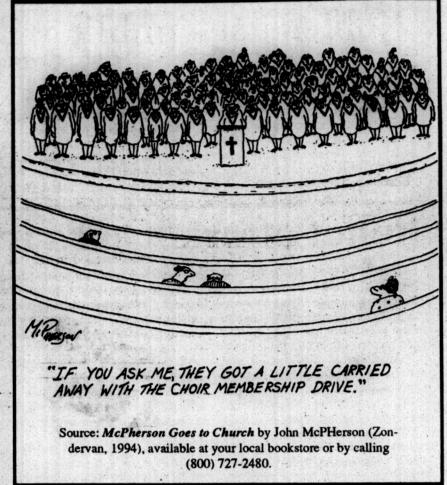
Someone has well noted the qualities of friendship in the four men who brought their paralytic friend to Jesus (Mark 2:1-12).

Good friends are aware of the needs of others. Some needs are

apparent, such as the paralytic, and some needs are deeply recessed in the soul. A good friend is one who sees, really hears, and cares. Such people are not afraid of getting involved in people's lives. This breed will go in the ditch to help a friend... knowing it will cost them.

This type of friend is persistent in efforts to help. Like the friends of the paralytic, they may do the unexpected like thinking their friend's healing is more important than a roof. Obstacles always arise when we get people near Jesus.

Good friends bring blessings to life. The paralytic's healing not only blessed him, but his four friends, as well as those who looked upon the scene. Two thousands years later, we are blessed by reading the account of the actions of these four men. Good friends will risk rejection or the scorn of the crowd. What would four friends like this be worth to you?



THE FRAGMENTS



Longenecker: Confessions provide "benchmarks" for Christian thought

By Mike Hooker

FORT WORTH (BP) — To explain the "Christ event" and to think and act as Christians, "we must direct attention to the early Christian confessional materials that appear in the writings of the New Testament," Richard N. Longenecker, distinguished professor of New Testament at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario, said recently at Southwestern Seminary.

Longenecker, featured speaker during the seminary's annual Drumwright Lecture Series, said "confessions" were used by early Christians to express the essential content of their commitment to Jesus. From the confessions, New Testament writers proclaimed and contextualized the Christian gos-

"The early Christian confessions established the norms and provide the benchmarks for authentic Christian thought in life," Longenecker said. "They should be viewed as functional statements of the earliest believer's basic convictions. In terms of Pauline theology today, the isolation of these early Christian confessional materials aids us in identifying the 'coherence factors' in the early Christian message."

Longenecker said New Testa-

ment "confessions" are grouped into three categories: poetic materials or hymns such as Romans 11:33-36, Revelation 15:3-4, and Philippians 2:6-11; prosaic materials such as Romans 1:3-4; and single statement affirmations such as Galatians 3:13, Galatians 1:4, and 1 Corinthians 15:3b-5.

He listed nine major themes of confessions: God is initiator, sustainer, and ultimate agent of redemption; Jesus is Israel's Messiah, the Christ; Jesus is identified as the Messiah; Jesus is God's obedient Son; Jesus is humanity's redemptive Lord; Jesus is true humanity; the cross is the focus of all redemptive work; all New Testament writers speak in terms of resurrection to newness of life; and new relationships are being established in that work.

Longenecker has written seven books and more than 50 articles in scholarly and professional journals. He served as senior editor of Christianity Today from

The Huber H. Drumwright Lectures Series was established by Minnette Williams Drumwright as a memorial to her late husband, who served as dean of the school of theology at Southwestern from 1973-80 and was named a distinguished alumnus of the seminary, posthumously, in 1982.

Hooker is newswriter in Southwestern Seminary's office of public relations.

Fifty times a year

Say "Happy Birthday" 50 times a year to someone you love. A Sunday School class in the Roseland Park Church in Picayune decided to send The Baptist Record to each other for a birthday wift.

Think of the men in the military, children working in a distant state, or just people to whom you would like to say "Happy Birth-day" in a unique way.

It will cost you less than a bar of candy per week. Just call or write Renee at The Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone (601) 968-3800, and the gift is made. And thanks to the Roseland Park Sunday School class for a wonderful idea. — GH

To meet challenges, draw closer to God

DENTON, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptist men are being challenged today as never before, but their ability to lead depends on the faithfulness they have to their heavenly Father.

"To lead other men, we must be filled with the fullness of God. Our inner strength and power comes from God," said James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, before a group of more than 130 men from 17 states gathered for Brotherhood University at Camp Copass near Denton, Texas.

Referencing Ephesians 3:14-21, Williams said God wants to bless people's lives in ways that seem impossible. It is walking with God daily and knowing him that makes possible the seemingly impossible, he said.

"The day you decide to let God work in and through you is your lucky day," Williams said. "One of my favorite definitions of a Christian is 'a person who does the impossible."

As an example of how God blesses beyond people's expectations, Williams told the group about the Brotherhood's new agreement to enlist volunteers for world relief efforts. He said as the first call for 100 medical volunteers went out from the Foreign Mission Board to serve in Rwanda and Albania, he wasn't sure the Brotherhood Commission could enlist the numbers needed.

Smiling broadly, Williams exclaimed, "I want to tell you that we have a waiting list of more than 30 people ready to go with visas in hand."

Other speakers during the Sept. 22-25 conference were Paul Barkley, assistant professor of psychology, Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and Douglas Beggs, vice president of program services at the Brotherhood Commission.

Brotherhood University participants attended conferences on topics ranging from Men's Ministries, Challengers and Royal Ambassadors to family issues. Conference titles included "Men Facing Crisis," "Making Peace With My Past," "Experiencing God Weekends" and "Learning to Pray from Scripture."

A "Share Fair" highlighted programs and ministries of the Brotherhood Commission. Afternoons were used for special experiential learning labs that included building and racing RA Racer cars, mastering outdoor cooking techniques, and constructing toys to be used for missions outreach.

At the close of the conference, Clarence Collier, Brotherhood director for the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship, was presented with toys made by conference participants. The toys will be given to needy children on the seven Montana Indian reservations.

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Editor	Guy Henderson
Associate Editor	William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer	Teresa Dickens
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Nobles goes public with explanations on TV tabloid show

Former Mississippi College president Lewis Nobles publicly answered allegations of embezzlement and immorality for the first time Oct. 27 in an interview with the nationally-syndicated tabloid television program, "A Current Affair".

"The money that they claim I kept has been returned to the college directly and indirectly, total-Nobles told reporter David Lee Miller as the two talked Oct. 23 while standing in the open front doorway of Nobles' home

Alan Perry, the Jackson attorney hired by the college to press for recovery of the missing money, said in the television episode, "I have personally seen where that money went through bank accounts, ultimately to accounts controlled by Dr. Nobles. If there's any explanation for that, we would love to hear

Nobles resigned in Aug. 1993 as head of the Baptist-affiliated college in Clinton after school

By William H. Perkins Jr. trustees confronted him about \$3 million in missing donations

allegedly made directly to his office over a period of 17

State and federal prosecutors began a criminal investigation, which led to Nobles (file photo) plea bargain

negotiations between Nobles and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Jackson.

When those negotiations broke down earlier this year prosecutors went to a federal grand jury, which returned a 20-count indictment Sept. 21 alleging mail fraud, money laundering, income tax evasion, and illegal interstate acts of immorality

Nobles pleaded not guilty to all charges during his arraignment Sept. 22 in Jackson before U.S.

Magistrate Alfred Nichols.
When asked about the women who testified before the federal grand jury that later indicted him

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

on charges of illegal sex acts. Nobles replied to Miller, "The government could possibly have some charges against them and they told them a story, if you tell this. we won't press these

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When Miller asked Nobles if he could account for every dollar alleged to be missing, Nobles said, "I think so."

Nobles' trial date, originally set for Nov. 7, 1994, has been moved to Feb. 7, 1995, according to U.S. Attorney's Office spokeswoman Shelia Jayroe.



Lift high the cross

Scores of pastors from churches across the state raise the cross Oct. 18 at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson to mark the beginning of the 1994 Mission Mississippi season of rallies and other events designed to foster racial and denominational reconciliation among Christian churches and organizations. Over 2,000 people turned out for two nights of rallies in support of Mission Mississippi's goals. (Photograph by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Annuity Board announces drug procedure changes

DALLAS (BP) — Participants in the Annuity Board's Comprehensive Medical plans soon will be able to save money with enhanced outpatient prescription drug benefits. On Jan. 1, 1995, the new benefits will be available in the comprehensive plans, according to Joel Mathis, head of the insurance division.

"The new benefits not only will save money for the partici-pants," Mathis said, "but the process will be simplified."

Participants who use their new PCS Health Systems card at a participating pharmacy will be able to buy up to a 30-day supply of a generic prescription drug for just a \$5 copayment. If a doctor prescribes a brand-name drug, the copayment will be \$12 for up to a 30-day supply of the drug. Participants who choose a brand-name drug when the doctor will allow a generic must pay an additional charge, Mathis said.

PCS will pay a first-dollar benefit, meaning participants will not have to meet a deductible for this benefit.

Participants who do not use the PCS card, for whatever reason, will probably pay more at the drugstore, but will still be able to

receive a benefit; however, the new benefit will be paid after a claim is filed through PCS, not Prudential, Mathis said.

"Participants will have to deal only with PCS for their benefits when they buy prescription drugs at a local pharmacy," Mathis said. "That should help simplify the process, and the new copayment structure will save money for most people."

The current prescription drug benefit allows participants to pay a special PCS price at the pharmacy and then file a claim with

Prudential for reimbursement. Prudential will not process claims for outpatient prescriptions filled after Dec. 31, 1994, Mathis said. Beginning Jan. 1, 1995, Prudential will cover claims only for medication included as part of a hospital admission, he said.

Also effective Jan. 1, 1995, copayments paid under the PCS program cannot be applied to the deductible for the health coverage administered by Prudential, Mathis said.

Participants will receive details about the new benefits along with the new PCS cards later this year, Mathis said.

Captist Record

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ACLU's letter to school superintendents stirs ire

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The school prayer debate is flaring again after Mississippi public school superintendents received a letter earlier this month from the Mississippi chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union detailing "specifically prohibited" prayer practices.

Mississippi Baptists are already planning their response.

The Oct. 6 letter from David Ingebretsen, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi (ACLUM), offered to help superintendants enforce the Sept. 2, 1994, decision by U.S. District Judge Henry T. Wingate of Jackson that struck down the school prayer law passed by the 1994 Mississippi Legisla-

Ingebretsen said in his letter, "Judge Wingate ruled that Mississippi schools must maintain 'an atmosphere of religious neutrality.' Specifically prohibited are practices such as:

devotionals or prayers over the public address system;

- teacher led or initiated classroom prayers:

- prayers by visiting clergy; - recital of The Lord's Prayer

— prayers at sporting events."
Ingebretsen's letter also advised superintendents that ACLUM will monitor compliance with Wingate's ruling and offer assistance to parents whose children are "impermissibly subjected to organized school prayer...."

Ingebretsen said Oct. 28 the letter was not meant to be threatening but was in response to complaints received by ACLUM.

Pau! Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, reported Oct.

28 that CAC will be working with local Baptist congregations in crafting a response to the letter.

"We intend to counter the impression that superintendents and school boards must surrender their right to make policy whenever a complaint is raised about religion. We are hearing of cases where students' rights are being suppressed out of fear of threatened legal action by ACLUM," Jones explained.

Jones said CAC recently received a complaint involving a Mississippi public school student who was prohibited from bringing a Bible into his school.

'Overreaction to these implied threats from ACLUM, or punishment of students for acts such as carrying a Bible to school, could invite legal action by people who do not believe school officials have authority to suppress religious speech because of content," Jones warned.

For information on the school prayer issue, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800. or toll-free (800) 748-1651.

Jim Henry among delegation on Clinton's Middle East trip

WASHINGTON (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry was a part of the United States delegation on President Bill Clinton's trip to the Middle East last week

Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., left the night of Oct. 24 on the trip, which included stops in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Israel, and Kuwait. On Oct. 26, attended a signing ceremony for a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan on the countries' mutual

In a prepared statement released through the First Church, Orlando, offices, Henry said he

would attend not only the treaty signing but the president's speech to Jordan's Parliament and his address to Israel's Knesset.

Others among the 58-member delegation invited by the White House included representatives of the Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim communities, Henry said. Other Baptist leaders on the trip included Charles Adams, a Detroit passive National Baptist Convention. and Otis Moss Jr., a Cleveland pastor, according to the White

The president and other members of the delegation returned to the United States Oct. 28.

Convention is underway

Full coverage of the 159th session of the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's events and results will be published in the Nov. 10 issue of The Baptist Record.



Larry Lewis (left) and Billy Graham

Graham, HMB leaders discuss evangelization

ATLANTA (BP) — Billy Graham met with evangelism leaders at the Home Mission Board Oct. 25 and discussed ways to share the gospel with every American by the year 2000.

"I appealed to Dr. Graham to convene a meeting of evangelism leaders from each denomination and each para-denominational group to see if we couldn't work together to develop a unified strategy," said HMB President Larry Lewis.

"I shared with him my feeling that no one denomination, even the Southern Baptist Convention, could achieve that goal alone, but I do believe that all of us together could," Lewis said, adding Graham appeared receptive to the idea and promised to prayerfully consider it.

The meeting occurred one day before the 75-year-old Graham began his third Atlanta crusade, scheduled for Oct. 26-30 at the Georgia Dome.

"I was very impressed with Dr. Graham. Although his health is faltering, he was strong in mind and very articulate and seemed to be strong in body also," Lewis

Visiting with Graham was his born again.'

son, Franklin, as well as associates T.W. Wilson, and Henry Holly. HMB evangelism leaders at the meeting included Darrell Robinson, vice president for evangelism; Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism; and Jim Coldiron, who is with the HMB's planning department and has helped organize Graham's Atlanta crusade.

During a news conference kicking off the five-day crusade, Graham said this period in history will be viewed as a time of "great spiritual awakening" by those in the

"I do not recall any time in American history when there were so many people who go to church and so many people who say they believe in God, by all the polls that we have," he said. He noted U.S. forefathers in Revolutionary War times are often thought to have been great Christians, but many actually only believed in God and not "the redemptive work of Christ on the cross to the extent that we hear it today and understand it today.'

Targeting issues of racism, Graham said, "The answer to racism is the love of Christ... and that is only available from being

Montana church seeks prayer

for kidnapped S.C. children GARDINER, Mont. (BP) — so much emphasis on the needs of Gardiner Baptist Mission in Gar- people in foreign countries like diner, Mont., has requested a

national day of prayer for two South Carolina children kidnapped during an armed carjacking.

The two brothers, 14-monthold Alexander Smith and 3-yearold Michael Smith, were last seen Oct. 25, when they were trapped in their mother's car as the carjacker/kidnapper sped away after forcing their mother out at gunpoint.

Gardiner Mission member Galen Warren, a native of Oklahoma City, said, "It just seems like the people of the United States put

Rwanda, Haiti, and Cuba - and certainly we are concerned about these people and their needs too - but sometimes we overlook what is going on here in our own backyard."

Warren said the church has requested that people pray every night at 8 (Eastern time) for the boys' safe release.

People interested in assisting with Gardiner Mission's worldwide effort may contact Smith at (406) 848-9450; Warren at (406) 344-7460; or Julie Harvey at (406)

Controversial issues promise a lively '94 Alabama convention

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The Alabama state board of missions has voted to retain an attorney and appoint a committee to review Samford University trustees' action to become a self-perpetuating board.

Acting on a proposal submitted by Executive Secretary Troy Morrison, both the executive committee and then the state board voted in a special Oct. 13 meeting to hire James Guenther, longtime Southern Baptist Convention counsel of Nashville, to study the legal implications of Samford's Sept. 13 action.

With only two dissenting votes, the state board also voted to authorize state convention President Dewey Corder to select a committee to study the matter.

Also at the mid-October sessions, Samford President Thomas Corts was given opportunity to address the two groups, strongly defending the Samford action, insisting the convention has never "owned" Samford University and the trustees had a legal right to change their charter.

The extreme headlines that talk of Samford's 'severing' itself from the state convention contribute absolutely nothing to the understanding of this issue," Corts said. "The talk of severance is absolutely false. In 1841, when Howard College was incorporated by an act of the state legislature, the charter says nothing about the ownership by the state Baptist convention, nothing about trustees being members of the Baptist church, nothing even about the institution's Christian mission. The charter merely sets up 15 men as a board of trustees of Howard College.'

Corts said there was no contact between Samford and Mississippi College before Mississippi College's board of trustees made a similar change one week later. He said Samford asked their attorneys to make as little change as possible and refused to make other changes, such as taking the state president and executive secretary off the board as ex-officio members.

In an Oct. 6 memorandum to administration, staff, faculty, and students, University of Mobile President Michael Magnoli endorsed a candidate for president of the Alabama State Convention.

The candidate, Fred Lackey, pastor of First Church, Athens, and a member of the University of Mobile's board of regents, apparently will face Earl Potts, retired state convention executive secretary, for convention president during the Nov. 15-16 annual meeting in Mobile.

Magnoli's memorandum says the university hopes to avoid "being swept up in any anti-Christian higher education sentiment created by recent actions of the Samford University Board of Trustees," referring to the Sept. 13 decision by Samford's board to elect their own successors.

But Corts, in an Oct. 18 letter to Magnoli, expressed his "strong disagreement" with Magnoli's endorsement of Lackey, which Corts called unprecedented in Alabama Baptist history. Corts also criticized what he called Magnoli's "direct plea for funds" from the convention, and he dismissed the idea of any "anti-Christian higher education sentiment" as a result of the Samford actions.

Magnoli said his support of Lackey was not political and not meant to discredit Samford: "We are deeply dismayed and troubled that some unscrupulous people may be using this internal memorandum to create discord between Samford University and the University of Mobile, or to further a moderate or conservative agenda while creating divisiveness within our convention. That was certainly not our intention when we distributed this internal correspondence. The three Alabama Baptist institutions of higher education have always worked together in a spirit of unity and harmony, and we are confident this positive relationship will not be undermined by those with impure

Rumors fly — again about false petition 2493

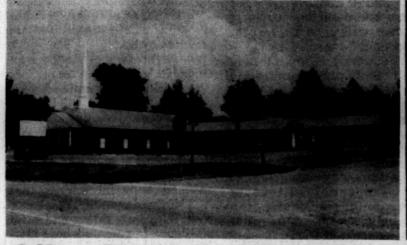
It has been well more than a decade since rumors first started that the nation's most visible atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, had filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ban all religious programming from the airwaves.

She didn't, but that hasn't stopped the rumors. In fact, every six to nine months, it makes the rounds again, and well-meaning Christians begin circulating their own petitions of protest that claim the FCC has granted O'Hair a hearing.

There is no hearing. There is no petition.

The FCC has issued the following statement concerning the supposed O'Hair petition (Note: Some rumors have tagged the supposed petition as No. 2493, a real - but unrelated - FCC petition from California):

"Petition number 2493 has resulted in millions of letters and telephone calls to the commission since 1975. This petition was denied by the FCC on Aug. 1, 1975, over 15 years ago. The commission is required by the First Amendment to take a neutral position toward religion, acting neither to promote it nor to inhibit it. Madalyn Murray O'Hair, a well-known atheist's name, continues to be associated with the false petition, even though she has never filed a petition with the FCC."





Olive Branch, Memphis churches merge

Victory Heights Church of Memphis merged with Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, following the purchase of Victory Heights property by the Memphis International Airport. In January 1994 the merged congregation voted to build a new 7,000-square-foot educational building/fellowship hall (left photo) and name it Victory Hall to maintain the identity of the

Victory Heights church. In the photo at right, Bob Mizell (left), pastor of Cedar View, and Ed Schulker (right), pastor of Victory Heights, became co-pastors of the merged congregation which kept the name of Cedar View Church. Reed Caldwell (center), retired former pastor of Cedar View, serves as senior adult

Baptists from several states help flooded southeast Texas

DALLAS (BP) — Baptists from Oklahoma and Louisiana joined Texas Baptists in providing food service and child care for flooded southeast Texans.

Tennessee Baptists also went to Angleton, Texas, Oct. 25, where they began preparing hot meals the next day.

Every regional Texas Baptist disaster relief unit except for remote El Paso has been called into service. Arkansas and Tennessee Baptists were standing by to provide additional child care if needed.

Baptists prepared about 64,000 meals in six days, not counting those served at shelters in churches, and provided care for 165 children during the first three days of temporary emergency child care.

The Texas Baptist disaster relief mobile unit and command post were set up at First Church, Dayton, Texas, about 40 miles northeast of Houston.

The mobile unit is an 18-wheel, tractor-trailer rig with a self-sufficient field kitchen. The command post is an RV equipped with HAM radios and other equipment to coordinate communication from remote disaster sites.

Volunteers served food directly

from the mobile unit in addition to cooking meals delivered by 25 Red Cross emergency response vehicles. Workers can prepare up to 35,000 meals per day at a disas ter site working from the field kitchen.

The Oklahoma Baptist mobile unit was set up at First Church, Tomball, Texas, north of Houston, and the Louisiana Baptist mobile unit was stationed at Kingswood



Plaza Hospital in north Houston.

Regional disaster relief units from Smith and Wichita Falls Baptist associations were set up at Houston's South Park Church. The regional unit from Tarrant Baptist Association was stationed at Simonton Community Church, west of Houston.

Golden Triangle Baptist Association volunteers served their neighbors from the parking lot at First Church, Beaumont, Texas. They provided food directly from the unit and supplied meals for a half-dozen Red Cross ERVs.

Volunteers working from the San Marcos Baptist Association disaster relief unit also were providing hot meals in the Beaumont area at Memorial Church.

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency,

Baptists were providing free temporary emergency child care at FEMA centers four locations - Conroe, Liberty, north Houston, and south Houston.

Baptist temporary emergency child care has been approved as a licensed child care facility in disasters, allowing children to get a hot, balanced noon meal, and providing parents time to file claims and clean up their homes or busi-

nesses. Trained volunteers use carefully developed instructional modules to help children cope with the trauma of disaster.

Southern Baptists work cooperatively with other private organizations through Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAID) which includes the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and a number of other church groups.

Thursday, November 3, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



CHILD CARE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS - Dixie Kennedy of Pearl Valley Church, Oma (left), Ellen Johns of Corinth Church, Magee (center), and Chuck Johnson of First Church, Madison, sort materials used at the Mississippi child care unit located at the fairgrounds in Angleton, Texas. The Mississippi unit, which is owned by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, arrived Oct. 29 in Texas to help flood victims. (Photo by Tim Yarbrough, Brotherhood Commission)

Miss. vols providing child care for Texas flood disaster victims

By Tim Yarbrough

ANGLETON, Texas — Sometimes a hug is all it takes.

And that's what Mississippi volunteer Donna Swarts of Corinth Church, Magee, offers when par-

ents bring their children to the Mississippi child care unit.

"We pick the children up and hold them. We give them comfort," said Swarts, team leader of the Mississippi unit that left Jackson Oct. 28 headed for the flood-ravged area south of Houston. "A lot of times the children just want you to spend time with them because, for whatever reason, their parents

haven't been able to do that. Helping parents and children overcome the trauma of losing everything they own after disaster is what child care ministry is about. The availability of child care allows parents to process claims through the American Red Cross and take care of other matters that allows them to begin to pull their lives together, said Swarts.

"I've had children grab both sides of my face and shake me because they didn't want to be left by their parents," said Swarts. "We do everything we can to calm them down. We do what we do because we love Jesus Christ."

While the children brought to the child care unit initially can be apprehensive because of all they've been through, child care workers quickly get them into activities like making crafts or playing with toys. Each child is given a coloring book and other goodies, as well as snacks while staying at the child care unit. A special basic kit con-taining toiletries is given to parents.

"This (working in child care) gives a woman a chance to help in a significant way during a disaster,' said Swarts, who is Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) director for Simpson Association. She also is WMU director at her church.

It's not only the children who

receive the attention of child care workers — their parents do, too.

"Some just need to talk to somebody," said Ellen Johns of Corinth Church, Magee. "They really just need their basic needs met. We try to do that."

The Mississippi child care unit in Angleton is owned and operated by Mississippi WMU and is a func-tional part of the Mississippi Bap-tist Convention Board's Disaster Relief Ministry. The unit was scheduled to return to Jackson Nov.

Other volunteers working at the Mississippi child care unit on Oct. 29 were Dixie Kennedy of Pearl Valley Church, Oma, and Chuck Johnson of First Church, Madison, and Bill Purvis of Ethel Church, Ethel.

The Brotherhood Commission coordinates initial and multi-state disaster responses on behalf of Southern Baptists from its Memphis headquarters. Units for feeding and child care are owned by the Brotherhood departments of state Southern Baptist conventions and by local associations and churches.

Those wishing to assist victims of the flooding can contact the MBCB Disaster Relief Ministry in care of the Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free (800) 748-1651.

Yarbrough is an editor at the SBC Brotherhood Commission in

Brotherhood trustees take steps to relocate, boost capital campaign

MEMPHIS (BP) — Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission approved a process for relocation of the agency's facilities and took steps to boost its \$10 million Opportunity Now capital campaign during their Oct. 21-22 meeting.

The trustees also approved organizational changes that included the naming of Michael Day, previously associate to the president, to the position of executive vice president. A recommendation brought by a trustee committee to sell the agency's facilities at 1548 Poplar Ave. to the city of Memphis for \$1.25 million was approved unanimously.

The recommendation also included plans to enter into contract with the Belz Corporation of Memphis for the construction of office and warehouse space totalling 70,000 square feet on a five-acre tract in the Goodlett Farms Corporate Park in suburban Cordova for roughly \$3.75 million. The contract to build would be

contingent upon securing funding for the project. The trustee action authorizes the president to request capital funds from the Cooperative Program capital needs budget and a low-interest loan for a period of five to seven years until funds can be provided by the SBC.

Meanwhile, the city of Memphis, with plans to use the agency's facilities for a smallbusiness incubator program, must apply for a federal grant.

The request will go to the Executive Committee's program budget subcommittee next February.

To expand the fund-raising campaign for Opportunity Now, the trustees approved a new position of development officer. Salary, benefits, travel, and administrative costs would come from the agency's "funds provided from operations" budget and from trustee pledges to Opportunity Now.

in other business, the trustees:

— voted to "respond affirmatively" to the SBC's instructions regarding the acceptance of funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and encouraged those churches who gave through the CBF to "continue their support of our missions through traditional Cooperative Program channels."

approved the agency's request of \$1,061,726 from the basic SBC Cooperative Program budget for the year 1995-96, representing a 10% increase over the 1994-95 allocation.

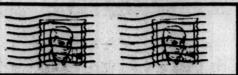


Helping Lauderdale mission

Terry Cross, leader of the Lauderdale Baptist Builders for Christ, led 35 men in constructing the educational building at Northeast Baptist Mission in Lauderdale Association. The structure is the second phase in the building program for the mission, sponsored by State Boulevard Church, Meridian, and the Lauderdale Association. W.F. Evans is paster.



Letters to the editor



Praise for wives

Editor:

[It] seems to me that the people of our Lord's church do not recognize enough our pastors' wives and the very important place they serve in the church. We tend to forget that at times.

They have to have a lot of love and patience. Also, they have to sacrifice more than we know.

To me, they have the greatest and most wonderful opportunity to serve God by supporting their preacher men and standing by their side when the going gets tough for them.

The congregation of each church should recognize their pastor's family with love and understanding, support them, and be there for them as well as their pastor.

My opinion is things get very discouraging for them lots of times. Let's all remember these very valuable people of our churches. May God bless each and every one of them.

Name withheld

Kudos for column

Editor

May I toss a bouquet to Ron Mumbower's [LifeAnswers] column? His answers are full of good advice and common sense. I enjoy it very much.

Margaret Ross Jackson

Paper a blessing

Editor

When I received The Baptist Record today, my first thought was of my mother, Lillie Williamson, who was buried on Oct.

Mother has been a member of First Church, Philadelphia, since 1927. She served the Lord with her spiritual gifts and her time, even until her death at age 91.

So many times she would tell me that she received The Baptist Record and that she had read it from cover to cover. Thank you for providing a paper that can bring interest and joy to others.

Marie W. Davis Grenada

Seeks Chinese pastor

Editor

The Chinese Baptist Mission, a mission of the First Church of Monroe, La., is currently seeking a pastor and would appreciate your help in our search. We are looking for a pastor to minister to international students attending our local Northeast Louisiana University.

Requirements for the position include a master's degree in divinity, be well versed in Mandarin and English, and have a special burden for ministry among Mainland Chinese students.

Interested applicants should send a complete resume to Mrs. Alma McLaury, 113 Fennell Dr., Monroe, LA 71203; phone (318) 343-5287. Additional information may be had by calling Kevin Koh at (318) 396-2235 or (318) 362-7264.

Paul Bauer, search committee Chinese Baptist Mission Monroe, La.

Florida needs editor

Editor:

Your assistance is requested in the search for a qualified editormanager of the Florida Baptist Witness, the newsmagazine of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

In the event that there are candidates who may wish to know the policies governing the office of editor-manager, a formal editorial policy statement, as adopted by the Witness Commission Nov. 12, 1986, is available by writing: Witness Search, P.O. Box 5121, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433.

Qualifications for the position include: demonstrated Christian character, unquestionable integrity, Southern Baptist affiliation, a history of and current active membership in a Southern Baptist church, formal journalism training, and experience in denominational religious communications.

Each nomination or application should be submitted in writing and

accompanied by a resume to the above address.

We solicit your prayers that the person selected as editor-manager will be pleasing to our God.

Lance W. Anderson

Lance W. Anderson Search committee chairman DeFuniak Springs, Fla.

Baptists, Orthodox meet to discuss European tension

ISTANBUL, Turkey (BP) — In an attempt to help Baptists and Orthodox Christians understand each other and peacefully coexist in Eastern Europe, representatives of the two groups began exploratory discussions Oct. 22-24.

Both sides agreed there was an "excellent spirit" at the meeting in Istanbul, formerly Constantinople, the sacred home of the Orthodox faith. They expressed hope future conversations will occur. The Orthodox leaders promised to convey this to their 15 self-governing national churches, whose approval is needed for the talks to continue.

A 13-member Baptist World Alliance team from England, Germany, Bulgaria, the former Soviet Union, and the U.S. was led by BWA President Knud Wumpelmann of Denmark, and General Secretary Denton Lotz from the BWA office in McLean, Va.

The meeting could be described as "one small step" towards religious understanding, since it's uncertain if the talks will continue, and "one giant step" because it's thought to be the first in the history of Baptists.

The talks couldn't have come

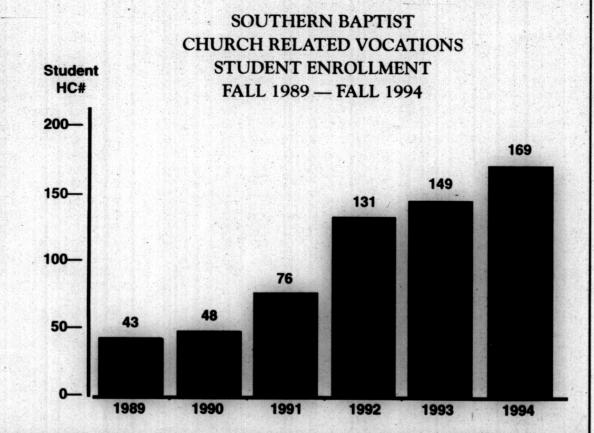
The talks couldn't have come at a better time. Baptist leaders in Eastern Europe — especially in Bulgaria — are being erroneously described by local Orthodox leaders as a "heretical sect" and charged with such bizarre acts as killing babies.

Russ Bush, dean of the faculty at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., spoke on "Distinctives of Baptist Polity and Practice." Gerald Borchert, professor of New Testament at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., gave an outline of previous conversations involving Baptists.

William Carey College Enrollment in Church-Related Vocations Sets Another Record



Todd Stewart, President of Church-Related Vocations Fellowship, is shown with fellow students, Dana Crain and Amy Stovall. The Church-Related Vocations program reached another record enrollment of 168 for the 1994 fall trimester. A program of CRV scholarships, aggressive recruiting, and support from Mississippi pastors has enabled the College to become a leader among SBC colleges and universities in the area of CRV programming. All indications point to continued growth in CRV enrollment. The College looks forward to working with SBC churches in the training of students for ministry in various church-related vocations.



William Carey College

Hattiesburg

Gulfport

New Orleans

For Admissions, Transfer Credit, and Financial Aid Information - Call (601) 582-6103

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 3, 1994

HouseTops is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

TeenWatch

AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN
by Sean Keith,
Consultant, Sunday School Department, MBCB

THE BAD NEWS:

Media often portrays teenagers in a negative light. The newspapers and the television constantly parade before us violent and rebellious teenagers who have gone wrong. Juvenile crime has risen as much as two and a half times what it was just in 1983. (Source: "They are, in Fact, Just Children," in USA Weekend, October 21-23, 1994). Since 1982, juvenile arrests have increased 25 percent, and juvenile arrests for violent crime has risen 82 percent. (Source: U.S. News & World Report's Database, June 20, 1994). With those statistics comes a growing teenage population. In the year 2005, just 10 years away, the number of adolescents between 15 and 19 years old will rise 21 percent. (Source: U.S. News & World Report, September 5,1994.) Many politicians, social workers, law enforcement officers, educators, business men/women, and the media make bold claims of what needs to be done to stop this epidemic of teenage violence and mayhem. Often times, you hear someone mention the need for the religious community to step in. Although these theorists support many worthy ideas from the local community to the national government, the one that stands out the most to me is the local church.

THE GOOD NEWS:

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (NIV) Our God is a God of hope. The church can still make a profound impact upon today's teenagers. As a matter of fact, some churches are making a difference right now. According to a survey done by the Youth Ministry staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board during the summer of 1994, there are some encouraging results about teens in our churches.

TEEN WATCH continued on back page

SUIT PROJECT - What is it?

For over 30 years Baptists in Mississippi have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas.

This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know

that we care about and support them in their work.

THE STATE STATE OF STATE

Mississippi Baptists say "Merry Christmas"

Montana, North and South Dakota

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Baptist Men's groups, littly binds, churches, etc. can send their gifts payable to:

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD Attention: Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Designate on your check: Suit Project

Sponsored by the Brotherhood Department Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

pray this day...... November 16-30, 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Missions, foreign and home missions— —we continue to use prayer requests which have come to us from Mississippi missionaries in response to our WorldSpan prayer partnership letterremember, if you do not see something from your favorite missionary, it is because we have not yet received a response		Barbara and Cape Caperton, Israel - for the Karen Yeshuah con- gregation of Jewish believers which is now beginning to have nationals win other Israelis - pray that soon they will grow to the place that they can begin another congre- gation 16	Laura Moak, Korea - that the door will open for teachers and med- ical personnel to go into North Korea	Rebecca S. Moncrief, Techwood, Atlanta, Georgia - for the strengthening of few married couples we now have in Techwood Baptist church; for pro- tection of children in Techwood from abuse of all types	Missy and Ed Moses, Zimbabwe - for the 100,000 refugees here from Mozambique, for their repatriation process, for the hun- dreds who have been won to their Lord while in Zimbabwe, that they will begin new Baptist churches in their home villages	
John A. Parker, retired from Chile - for the lost of our church community in Virginia, for harmony as we continue plans to build educational space, that the church will grow in its zeal for missions	Flora and Robert Holifield, Italy - mis- sionary travel, housing, and support	Faye Pearson, East Asia - that God will call out many young adults to serve Him in East Asia (Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, Japan, Okinawa, and Korea); for peace for our Hong Kong and Macao missionaries as they face the uncertainties of 1997 when political change takes place 22	Jerry Ann and Frank Pevey, Tanzania - for wisdom in leading Baptist Mission of Tanzania, for daughters who are at boarding school	Mary and Errol Simmons, Hungary - for us as we "run" the International Baptist Lay Academy, for the institution as we move to a new location, and for our family in the move	Linda A. Smith, Hong Kong - for me as I serve on a church planting team to start a new church in Kong Kong's newest city, Tin Shui Wai, which will have a population of 2 million by the year 2000; our greatest prayer need is for a place to worship Debbie and Lonnie 25	Thompson, Germany - for our continued progress in learning the German language; for housing
Gloria and Tom Thurman, Bangladesh - for parents and family members who carry extra loads for us; that missionaries will become better "prayer warriors"	Peggy and Karl Wallace, Colombia - for us in our new country of work; pray that the method of evangelization called "Chronological Narration of the Bible" developed by Karl and put into place in Peru will contin- ue to be accepted and be effective	Glenda and Jerry White, Korea - for very serious land/tax prob- lems with the govern- ment for our mission; for serious conflict with North Korea over nuclear issue	The Tim Youngs, Bangladesh - for all local evangelists and church leaders as they support our mission objectives	P.O. Box 5. Jackson, M Phone 968	Ainistry Office 30 S 39205-0530 3800, Ext. 3904 PrayerLine 1-800	
27	28	29	30			



Contact the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or mail at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

1995 AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS

AKEA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE
Thursda Area 2	ay, January 26, 1995, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. FBC, Tupelo, Church and Jefferson Street	Bob Robinson	C=Church H=Home C 842-1327
Area 4	FBC, Columbus, 202 7th Street North	Wayne Jackson	C 328-3915
Area 5	FBC, Clinton, 100 East College Street	Marla Smith Bill Bacon	C 924-6705
Area 7	FBC, McComb, 1700 Delaware Avenue	Mark Moore Carol Watts	C 684-2971
Area 8	FBC, Hattiesburg, 510 W. Pine Street	Kathy Vail	H 264-7443
Friday,	January 27, 1995, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. FBC, Laurel, 605 Fifth Street	Earline Carter	C 649-5710
Area 9	FBC, Gulfport, 40 53rd Street	Tammy Turnage	H 896-5566
Saturda Area 1	y, January 28, 1995, 9:30 a.m Noon		
	Colonial Hills BC; 2101 Colonial Hills Drive, Southaven	Elizabeth Cothern	H 781-2582
Area 3	FBC, Cleveland, 101 N. Bolivar Street	Darryl Prater	C 843-2701
Area 5	FBC, Vicksburg, 1607 Cherry Street	Jim Hess	C 636-2493
Area 5	Alta Woods BC, 168 Colonial Drive, Jackson	Wyndy South Bob Jones	H 957-3615 C 372-8651
Area 6	Poplar Springs Dr. BC, 4032 Poplar Springs Dr., Meridian	Harry Tillery	C 485-5106



Sunday School ... What is it ANYWAY?



by Keith Wilkinson

Director of the Sunday School Department, MBCB

ust what is a Sunday School? Have you ever thought about what a Sunday School is in your church? And what role you play in it?

Sunday School has been around for a long time. It's something that just about every Mississippi Baptist church provides. Most meet on Sunday mornings, although a few provide classes at other times as well.

But what is it?

We know what a Sunday School does. It reaches people. It engages people in Bible study. It ministers, witnesses, involves people in worship, and supports the church.

But what is it?

s it a school, for instance? Obviously, school has been the historical model for Sunday School. The word school is in its name. Sunday Schools have classes- another school word. People join Sunday Schools by enrolling in them. Again, a school model. Schools emphasize attendance and the dissemination of knowledge. Again, that fits Sunday School. We record attendance and we emphasize the accumulation of Bible knowledge. But does the school model go far enough to describe a Sunday School? Like school, do people sometimes feel that they have "graduated from" Sunday School? Half of our church members must think so, because they are not enrolled in Sunday School. How are we doing on attendance? The state average is a little over 51 percent. What grade would a school give to students who attend only half the time? And how are we doing on Bible knowledge among the average Sunday School member? What grade could we give ourselves?

What if we thought about Sunday School in terms of small groups? Groups generally are formed to meet special needs. Groups emphasize relationships. Would more people in your community participate in Sunday School if classes became warm, caring groups of people trying to meet the needs of those who were part of the group? Someone said recently in reference to why she did not attend Sunday School, "I would put on my

high heels, my dress, and paste on a smile, and I would go to a class where everyone else had on their high heels, dresses, and pasted on smiles, and we never got past that." She continued, "I go to alcoholics anonymous, wear my jeans and T-shirt, and hear someone say 'I'm so-and-so, and I'm an alcoholic." She said that immediately the group responds with acceptance and support. Why? Because each person present is there for the same reason—they have a problem and they need help. Is it not true that each of us attend Sunday School for that reason, we have a spiritual problem and we need help? Would it help to think of your Sunday School class as a support group for Christians and for those who seek to know the Lord?

third possibility is to visualize Sunday School as a team. Why does a team exist? Teams try to do something, whether it is to win a game, or to accomplish some great mission or task. A team focuses its skills, energy, and enthusiasm toward some goal. A football team tries to win. A team studies and practices in order to better play the game. Does the team model work for Sunday School? What if you were to think of your class as a team? What goal is your team trying to reach? What is your mission? How well are you doing toward reaching your objective? Teams recruit players. Who is your Sunday School class trying to recruit? Teams study and practice to develop their understanding and skills. Why are we studying the Bible, anyway? Just to accumulate knowledge? Or is our purpose to learn all we can in order that we may accomplish our mission? And what about attendance? If a player misses a practice session or a game, that player's absence is immediately felt. The work of the team is hindered. The other players want to know why the player is missing. The team concept emphasizes attendance, but not for the sake of attendance. Attendance is important so that the team can be effective in fulfilling its mission.

What about it? Is your Sunday School more like a school, a group, or a team? What do you think? I'd be very interested in hearing your views about Sunday School. Write or call me at the Sunday School Department, Box 530, Jackson, 39205; 1-800-748-1651.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ALL-STATE YOUTH CHOIR Auditions

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. **February 6-8, 1995** For 9th - 12th Graders

- February 6
 North Oxford BC, Oxford
- February 7
 Harrisburg BC, Tupelo
 - February 9 FBC, Starkville
- February 11

 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

 Building

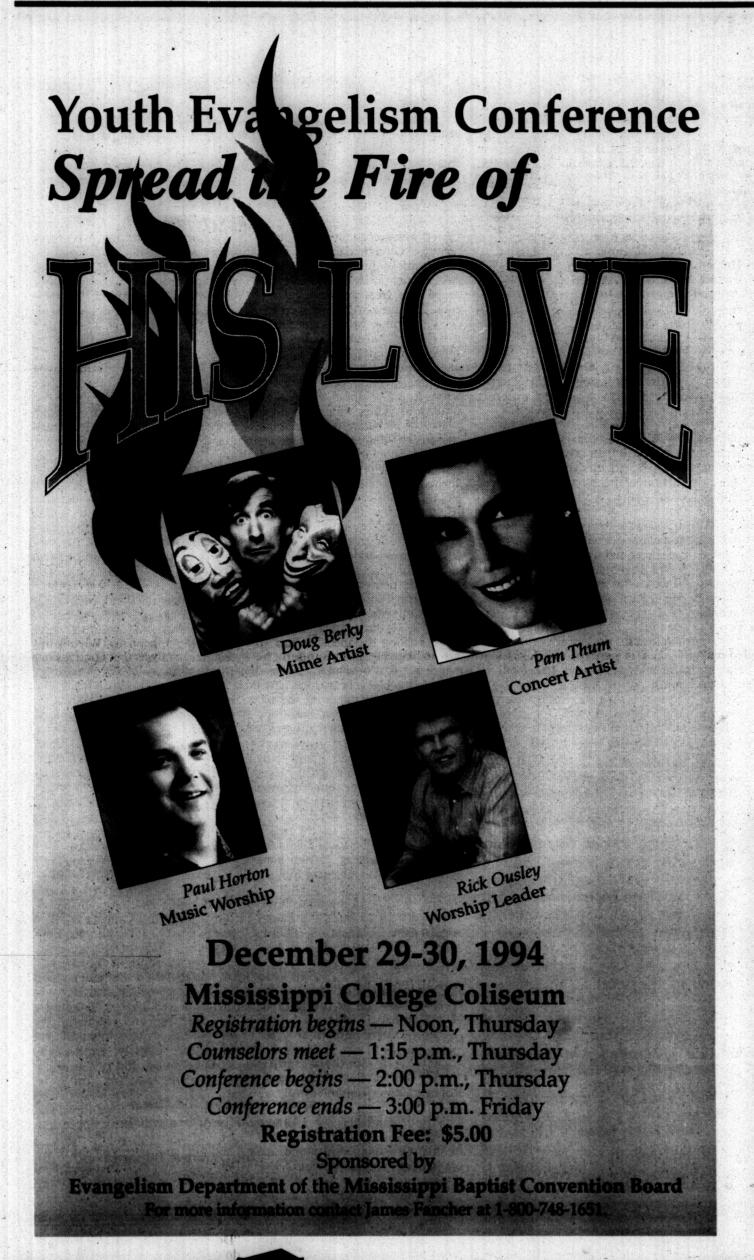
 (9a.m. 2p.m.)
 - February 16 FBC, Biloxi
 - February 17 Central BC, McComb
 - February 18
 University BC, Hattiesburg
 (9 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)
 - February 20
 FBC, Leland
 - February 28
 Baptist Building, Jackson

Auditions will include:

- · A solo (no tapes)
- Sightreading
- Tonal Memory
- · Singing their voice part from a hymn

Audition Fee: \$3.00 per person Registration Deadline: One week prior to audition

Contact Church Music Department for Registration information: 1-800-748-1651



TEEN WATCH continued from front page

Eight out of ten youth surveyed felt their church had a "good" youth ministry and indicated they enjoyed their church's worship services. A solid majority of teens: felt homosexuality was wrong, do not drink alcoholic beverages, do not take illegal drugs, and believe that sex before marriage is wrong. These teenagers also expressed a desire to be more involved in church. Seventy percent of these teenagers expressed a desire to help lead in a youth led worship service. Over 50 percent said that they read their Bible regularly and 90 percent pray on a consistent basis. Approximately 90 percent felt that their church does a lot to reach unsaved people in their community. Eight out of ten youth expressed a desire that their youth group be more involved in missions. These statistics tell us that not all kids are violent or exhibiting extreme anti-social behavior. As a matter of fact they care about their world, their community and their church.

So how do we have a profound impact on today's teenage culture? Start where you are with what you've got. There are some teens in your church who God is trying to mold into godly men and women and they need your support and encouragement. Teach them how to be God's "light" in their world, school, community. We do that by setting a good example. It is not something we teach at a seminar, pay someone to do for us, or expect someone else to do. If this world is going to change, it must begin with me and you. We can change our world and the world our teenagers face everyday, but it starts one person at a time.

The Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Presents the

1995
Evangelism Conference
January 30-31, 1995

Temple Baptist Church Hattiesburg

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, and conference concludes at 9 p.m. on Tuesday

For further information contact Patsy Bozeman at 1-800-748-1651

President's address to the Convention-

Questions that really matter

John 5:1-8

esus Christ attended an unnamed feast in Jerusalem. It was probably Passover or Purim. There is no way for us to know for sure. The Sheepgate was in the northeastern area of the temple. This was where the animals were brought for sacrifices. The pool was a large trapezoid, 315' long, 165-220' wide, and 75' deep. Archeologists discovered it in

There were a multitude of sick people by this pool. It would be the equivalent to a modern-day nursing home. The underground springs and the periodic bubbling of the waters led to the belief that the waters were stirred by an angel and had curative powers. They also believed that the first person to touch the water after the bubbling would be healed. Did healing occur? I don't know. But I do know that crowds of invalids came to give it a try.

A colonade with five porches overlooks the body of water. It is a monument of wealth and prosperity, but its residents are full of diseases. The sacrificial sheep are without blemish, but these people are invalids without options.

As Jesus made his way through that mass of pitiful people his attention focused on one man who had been lame and helpless for 38 years. Jesus asked him this ques-tion: "Do you wish to get well?"

n the mystery of the divine prerogative Jesus only healed one person out of this multitude. Why? The second thing is that the purpose of Jesus is to make man whole, not necessarily physically

well. Paul's thorn is an example of this idea. Helen Keller said, "I thank God for my handicaps, for through them, I have found myself, my work, and my God."

God is more concerned with spiritual welfare than physical welfare. He is more concerned with our character than with our comfort. Sometimes physical adversity is necessary to move us toward spiritual wholeness.

ur generation is fascinated with illness. Thirty percent of television advertising is spent on health remedies and drugs. Ten percent of our income is spent on drugs. Americans consume four tons of aspirin every day, and spend over six billion every year on drug prescriptions. Our generation fills more hospital beds, and makes more trips to the doctor than any other generation.

I want us to look at three things about Jesus in this story. Then, I want to draw a conclusion about the question he asked this man.

1. His presence. Why would he go to such a place? These people were desperate, discouraged, defeated, deprived, and despairing folks whose hopes had dwindled on the faint flicker of an unfounded superstition. This is why he was there! These people lived their lives in the grip of hopelessness and helplessness. Jesus wasn't there as a tourist.

Why was this man singled out? Was he more desperate, helpless, and hopeless than the others? One thing for sure, on this day his hopelessness was played out in the presence of Jesus. Jesus was there

By Rex Yancey requires the presence of Jesus.

U.S. News & World Report had an article this year about Kevin Carter. Carter was a photographer from South Africa. He took pictures of the suffering masses in Sudan. He came upon a little girl

crawling to a feeding station one day who was being stalked by a vulture. He took a picture of this scene and helped the little girl to the feeding station. This picture won him



a Pulitzer Prize. However, a short time later, Carter took his own life. His father said that Kevin took the suffering of the world on his shoulders.

re live in a helpless and hopeless world. However, this man has a face. It's ours. This man has a name; it's your name. We have no solution for our predicament. We are either hopeless ourselves or experience hopelessness when we look at the needs around us.

Is Jesus here today? Why? Because he enjoys good singing? He enjoys a good Baptist meeting? No! We are in his presence because desperate human need requires his presence.

2. His perception. Jesus saw the man and knew his predicament. John 2:24-25 says, "But Jesus, on his part, was not entrusting himself to them, for he knew all men, and because he did not because desperate human need need anyone to bear witness concerning man for he himself knew what was in man."

He knows us better than we know ourselves. In John 4 the Samaritan woman said, "Come see a man who told me all the things that I have done." He knew about her husbands. He knew about her social stigma. He knew about the spiritual thirst of her soul.

Te knows about you. You are not a code number in a cos-A mic computer. Jesus gave his attention to an individual in the midst of a great multitude of people. You are not lost in a crowd. You may think you are a needle in a haystack, but you are not. You are not an imperceptible grain of sand on the seashore.

Jesus knew his apostles. He

knew some of them were overambitious. They wanted to sit in places of authority when he came into his kingdom. One of them was a traitor. Some of them had no tolerance for anyone who was unlike themselves. Simon Peter wanted to get in the flesh to do God's work. Thomas was a doubter. But has it ever occurred to you that nothing has ever occurred to God? He knew his apostles and he knows

3. His power. Jesus was present, perceived the man's need, and had the power to do something about it. He healed a centurion's slave at long distance. He has all authority. He commanded the wind, walked on water, restored sight to the blind, healed the lame, turned the water into wine, healed lepers, cast out demons, raised the dead. Is he any less powerful today? No! Does he grow weak with age? No! We do, but he does not. He was present, perceptive, and had the power; but this man was not healed because of these three things alone.

"Do you wish to be made whole?" At first glance, this is the equivalent of asking, "Is the Pope Catholic?" or "Is Alabama football a religion?" But once we take a deeper look, we know that this is not a trite question. It is a haunting, disturbing question. This is what it boils down to. It is a question of desire.

for a moment let's picture this convention at the pool of Bethesda. We've been embroiled in a controversy for years. For 15 of my 29 years as a preacher, the Southern Baptist Convention has been in a turmoil. Some of you younger ministers have never known anything else.

To put it mildly, we all have some emotional scars. I would even dare to say that some are emotional cripples. I would say that the controversy is more of a concern to many than winning the lost or building strong churches. Now, in this situation, we have been challenged to get over it and work together.

We might as well be told to pole-vault to the moon. We are in a desperate situation. Our only hope is to answer the question of Jesus:

"Do you wish to get well?"

Frankly, many of us would sa "No, thanks, not yet!"

We have succumbed to our sickness. We have bedded down with the condition of our lives. We've grown comfortable with . our lameness. We have developed a sense of acceptance. It is easier for us to stay the way we are than it is for us to change. We do not want to chance the risky business of wholeness in the Lord Jesus.

We are a little like the deacon who gave the preacher some homemade cough syrup. The deacon said, "Preacher, I've been using this for 20 years, and haven't gotten over my cough yet!"

Tow, we might not ever admit to each other that we have bedded down with our disease. However, this man began to make excuses: "There is no man. to put me into the water. Someone always gets there before me." So. the man felt sorry for himself, experienced bitterness, and had basically given in to his disease. The answer to this question before us requires obedient faith. "Take up your mat and walk."

Max Lucado said about this

"I wish we would do that; I wish we would take Jesus at his word; I wish, like heaven, that we would learn that when he says something, it happens. What is this peculiar paralysis that confines us? What is this stubborn unwillingness to be healed? When Jesus tells us to stand, let's stand. When he says we're forgiven, let's unload the guilt. When he says we're valuable, let's believe him. When he says we're eternal, let's bury our fear. When he says we're provided for, let's stop worrying. When he says, 'Stand up,' let's do

ucado ends his article telling of a private who ran after and caught the runaway horse of Alexander the Great. When he brought the animal back to the general, Alexander thanked him by saying, "Thank you. Cap-

With one word, the private was promoted. When the general said it, the private believed it. He went to the quartermaster, selected a new uniform, and put it on. He went to the officers' quarters and selected a bunk. He went to the officers' mess and had a meal. Because the general said it, he

All the elements are the same. A gentle stranger has stepped into our hurting world and offered us a hand. It is up to us to take it. If we fail to take his hand, we can spend a lifetime watching him make other people whole while we

remain spiritually crippled.

So, it is not a trivial question:
"Do you wish to get well?" Well, do you? Then take a step of obedient faith. Get off of your sick bed and walk. My challenge to the 1994 convention is that we get off of our sick beds and walk together.





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Just for the Record



Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, recently recognized its GAs for their completion of Missions Adventures. The church also recently ordained Calvin Smith as deacon.



Sylvarena Church, Wesson, held a ground breaking ceremony on Sept. 25 for a new sanctuary and educational building. Pictured, from left, are Flora Sullivan, Emma Jean James, Jeanette Jackson, Sheryl Montgomery, Claude Lowery, Bobby Britt, Richard Miller, Clifford Britt, chairman of the building committee, T.A. Huntington Jr., contractor, and Mark Dearman, pastor, standing in the back.

Center Grove, Meridian, will hold special services on Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m. Speaker will be Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission, Jackson. Edd Holloman is pastor.

Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto, will observe Old Fashioned Day Nov. 13. Activities will include dinner in the fellowship hall and a gospel singing. The church also exceeded its Margaret Lackey Mission Offering goal by \$341. The goal was \$1,200, making the total offering amount \$1,541. Danny Moss is pastor.



Macedonia Church, Simpson Association, received a \$1,200 grant through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The grant came from the Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Lucas Memorial Trust to aid small Mississippi Baptist churches and will be used to help rebuild the worship center, torn down because of structural damage. Charles Case, pastor, presented the check to A.G. "Poss" Weathersby on behalf of the Foun-

Wade (Jackson): Nov. 13-17; 7 p.m.; Glenn Savell, Linden, Ala.. evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; Bill Barton, pas-

Mt. Moriah, Bogue Chitto: Nov. 6-9; Sunday services, regular times; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; services will be conducted by Campers on Mission; Danny Moss, pastor.

Maybank, Hattiesburg: Nov. 6-9; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; weekdays, 7 p.m.; George Berger, director of missions, Lebanon Association, evangelist; Daniel Lee, Providence, Hattiesburg, music; George C. Aultman, pastor.

Chunky (Newton): Nov. 6-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Keith Thrash, Russell Church, Lauderdale Association, evangelist; Everette Kimbriel, music; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

First, Poplarville: Nov. 6-9;

services, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., with Bob Rogers, pastor, preaching; Sunday, 6:30 p.m. and each week day at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., with Dean Register, pastor. Temple, Hattiesburg, evangelist: Zeno Wells, First, Gulfport,

Deer Creek, Rolling Fork: Nov. 9-13; Wed.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.: Walt Gragert, Pueblo. Colo., evangelist: James Dominy. Greenville, music; Michael King,

Carmel, Monticello: Nov. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 nightly; Hardy Denham, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Ken Hedgepeth, Hattiesburg, music.

Freedom, Laurel: Nov. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.: Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.: Billy Smith. Madison, evangelist; James Gipson, Laurel, music; R. Tracy Hipps, pastor.

Southern sees record gift year

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Seminary received a record amount of contributions during the 1993-94 fiscal year.

Donors provided the seminary approximately \$7.5 million which topped the previous record of \$5 million given during the 1988-89 fiscal year, according to Thomas F. Mabe, the Louisville, Ky., seminary's vice president for institutional advancement. Of that total, approximately \$3.8 million was received in current gifts. Another \$3.7 million was given in the form of irrevocable trusts.

Much of the money is designated for campus capital projects and endowments, Mabe said. Currently, the seminary is securing funds to construct a conference center, the third and final phase of the Honeycutt Campus Center.

A major portion of the deferred gifts, Mabe noted, is set aside for the seminary's new Billy Graham School of Missions Evangelism and Church Growth.

of Southern Seminary who gave generously during a year of presidential transition," said seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.

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Staff Changes

Bellehaven Church, Ocean Springs, has called Hampton Eggerton of Moss Point as interim pastor effective Sept 18. A native of Mobile, he received his education at the University of South Carolina and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Graceland Church, Ocean Springs.

Enterprise Church, Liberty, has called Ernest J. Whittington as pastor. He is a native of Amite County. He has previously pastored churches in California and served 20 years in the Air Force.

Centreville Church, Mississippi Association, has called William W. Smith as minister of music and education effective Oct. 1. He received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Noxapater Church.

Oak Grove, Smithdale, has called Cletus Moak as pastor effective Oct. 9. A native of Bogue Chitto, he is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Sammy J. McDonald III has resigned the pastorate of First Church, Braxton. He accepted a position as student counselor and advisor for Mississippi Job Corporation Center in Crystal Springs. He is available for bivocational and interim positions. He can be reached at (601) 892-2549.

First Church, Petal, has called Paul Strahan as pastor effective

Oct. 2. He is moving to Petal from First Church, New-ton. A native of Poplarville, he is a graduate of William Carey College and is working on a doctoral degree at New Orleans Strahan Seminary.



Kevin Bower has resigned the position as minister of music and youth at First Church, Braxton. He is living in Laurel and serves as art instructor for Heidelberg

John Armistead has announced his resignation from Calvary Church, Tupelo, effective Dec. 31. He will join the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal as religion editor. A

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native of Mobile, Ala., Armistead is a graduate of Mississippi College, the University of Mississippi, Golden Gate Seminary, and New Orleans Seminary.

Jason Gross has recently accepted the pastorate of Macedo-nia Church in Lauderdale Association. He is a third year student at New Orleans Seminary.



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LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D. Minister of Counseling Pirst Church, Jackson

My husband told a woman at church that she was attractive, and they embraced affectionately. I was crushed. Was I wrong?

Feelings are not wrong — it is how we act upon feelings that causes difficulties. Feelings of anger, frustrations, hurt, disappointment, grief, sadness, joy, etc., come without warning. What we do with those feelings is the important thing. Ephesians 4:26 (NIV) says, "In your anger do not sin,..." A common problem today is that we have been taught not to express these feelings, so you must use your head to figure out what you should do in this case. Have you talked with your husband about how you felt? He may be unaware of how his interaction with this woman appeared. If you say nothing, you send the message that what your husband did is all right with you. When you talk with him, tell him how you felt, not how wrong he was in doing it. You are not his conscience, but you can inform him of your emotions, feelings, and hurts. This is where you must trust God to convict him about his actions. I will say this: we must all be careful in showing too much affection to someone other than our spouse, because Satan can take what appears to be innocent and create something that should never be there. We must abstain from any appearance of evil (1 Thes. 5:22).

How can I know for sure that I'm saved? I hear preaching about believing in the head instead of the heart, and I feel insecure.

Do you know for certain that you have eternal life and will go to heaven? If God asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?," what would you say? Romans 10:9 (NIV) says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:13 (NIV) says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." If you call on Jesus' name, you can be sure of your salvation. Our society puts too much stock in feelings and not enough in faith. Proverbs 23:7 (KJV) says, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Notice how both the head and the heart are drawn together in this passage. So many times we want a feeling and therefore do not take God at his word when he says he loves us enough to die for us - loves you enough to die for you! His love boggles the mind. Keep your focus on God's Word, and when you feel insecure open your Bible and read about the great riches and promises God has in store for

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Names in the News



G.A. McCoy (right), former pastor of Union Church, Picayune, was recently honored by the church with the title of pastor emeritus. The congregation celebrated its 152nd anniversary on Sept. 18. Terry Ledbetter (left), current pastor, conferred the honorary title on McCoy.

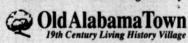
Glen Savell, a Mississippian, has entered a full-time ministry of leading churches to experience revival. His address is Glen Savell Ministries, Inc., P.O. Box 75, Northport, AL 35476, or call (205) 349-0087.

Gus Merritt recently announced his plans to retire in December as pastor of Clarke-Venable Memorial Church, Decatur. He has served the church since October 1975. Merritt currently serves as a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, a position he will continue to fill following retirement.

Tommy Purvis, pastor of Mission Hill Church, Wesson, will be married to Sherry Greer of Ruth on Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. at Providence Church in Jayess.

James "Jimbo" McCay Jr. of Hattiesburg has been named the William Carey College recipient of the United Parcel Service Foundation Scholarship for the current academic year. McCay, who is a junior with a 4.0 cumulative grade point average, is pursuing a business major with a minor in communication. He serves as sports correspondent for The Hattiesburg American newspaper.

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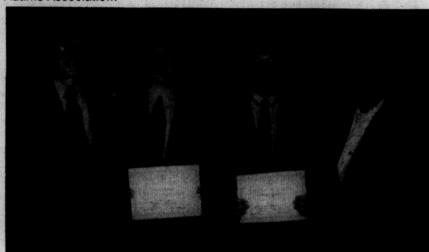
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Cliff Temple Church, Natchez, recently ordained Donnie McIlwain (second from left) and Glenn Switzer (second from right) as deacons. Don Womble (left) is pastor. Dale Little (right) is director of missions, Adams Association.



Deborah Brady (left to right), Mary Lou Smith, Ann Wilson, and Paul Wilson were recently recognized by Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, upon their completion of tenure as Sunday School workers. The four workers had a combined total of 140 years of service.

Homecomings

New Hope, Mt. Olive: Nov. 6; services, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and afternoon service.

Calvary, Durant: Nov. 6; Sunday School, 9:45 am.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; Billy Barron, Durant, guest speaker; The Johnsons, Atoka, Tenn., guest singers; Jerry Smith, pastor.

First, Coffeeville: Nov. 6; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Henry E. Hight, Slate Spring, guest speaker; dinner in family life center at noon; Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.

Evansville, Coldwater: Nov. 6; beginning at 10:30 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; Sonrise, Philadelphia, music; Trennis Grubbs, guest

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speaker; Bernette Fielder, pastor.

Fayette (Union): Nov. 6: beginning 9:45 a.m.; lunch will be served; Edwin King, pastor.

Macedonia (Lauderdale): Nov. 6; 11 a.m.; Howard Catledge, guest speaker; The Sullivans, music, 1 p.m.; Jason Gross, pastor.

Pleasant Hill, New Hebron: Nov. 13; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; Glenn Shows, guest speaker; Charles Rodgers, pastor.

First, Lauderdale (Lauderdale): Nov. 13: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11: noon meal; Carless Evans, guest speaker; Mike Russell, pastor.

Ludlow (Scott): Nov. 13, Harvest Day; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Nat Mayhall, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch in family life center; Ronnie Jones, pastor.

Revival Results

Faith, Hickory Flat (Benton-Tippah): Oct. 9-12; Charlie Cooper, Rienzi, preaching; Rusty Miller, Ecru, music; five professions of faith; W.G. Dowdy, pastor.

Uniform

Claiming God's promise



By Richard Bradley 2 Samuel 7

The Word of God is filled with many wonderful promises which apply to God's people. However, these promises must be claimed by faith. That is, God's people must truly believe that God can and will do what he has promised. Because God is completely trustworthy, we can have complete confidence in his promises and can rest in the assurance which only a quite, confident faith can know.

Restless? Feeling a little insecure? Go to the Book. Spend time reading the wonderful promises of God which apply to you and speak to your situation and see if this prescription doesn't make you feel better and help you to see

things in a whole new light.

David's awe at God's promise to establish his house forever (vv. 18-20). I often feel that we are just a little too bold in the presence of God. Sure, as God's people we have the right, the privilege of coming directly into the presence of God, but not with pride and haughtiness. Where is Job's pride in God's presence (Job 42:5-6)? Where is Moses' pride in God's presence (Exodus 3:4-6)? Where is Isaiah's pride in God's presence (Isaiah 6:5) Where is David's pride in God's presence (2 Samuel 7:18). In the scriptures we discover that awe and abject humility were the common personality traits of those who truly sensed the presence of the Almighty. Should it be different with us? On the other hand, do we really sense God's pres-

David's acknowledgment of the goodness of God (v. 21). Often, our attitude is one of, "Look what I have done!" Like the football player who wants the whole stadium to know that he and he alone scored the touchdown or made the great play, we want everyone to know how valuable we are to God. Could it be that this is why we often say, "I won someone to Jesus" rather than saying, "I led someone

to Jesus?"

David recognized what a wonderful thing God was doing in establishing his house. However, much to his credit, David also recognized that it was nothing special in him which caused God to do this. God's goodness to David was based on his love and grace and not on anything David had done. Aren't you glad that we rarely get what we deserve from God? Anything good which comes from God is always based on his goodness and not our greatness!

David's praise for God's greatness and his acknowledgment of God's sovereignty (v. 22). This verse ought to lead us to join David in praising God. How much time do you spend praising God? We spend a lot of time interceding for ourselves and others. We spend a lot of time seeking God's leadership and wisdom. But, how much time do we spend simply honoring him for who he is? He alone is God and worthy of our praise. Even if God never did another thing for us, performed another act of our behalf, or saw us through another day, he would still be deserving of our praise. We praise him for who he is!

David's rehearsal of God's acts on Israel's behalf (vv. 23-24). Notice what made Israel great in David's estimation. Israel was not made great by its people, its natural resources, or its place in world history. For David, what made Israel great was what God had done for the nation. Of all the people on earth, both small and great, God had chosen the Jews as his people and then had kept all of his promises related to his chosen people. It was God's grace and God's favor that made Israel great. Is this something ation is in danger of forgetting? I'm afraid that it is (Ps. 9:17). No people can dare be thought of as 'great" without God!

David's request that God keep his promise to establish his house forever (vv. 25-29). In fact, this is more of a claim than it is a request. David was not so much remind-ing God of what he had promised as he was claiming by

faith what God had already promised.
God's promises are wonderful, but God's people must respond to them in faith. We must believe that God will do what he has promised to do. Reminding God of these promises in prayer is simply a way of reminding ourselves that God will always be true to his Word.

Bradley is pastor, Handsboro Church, Gulfport.

Bible Book



By Raymond Kolb **Ephesians 5**

A quick glance back at verses 1-2 prepares us for the other thoughts to be presented in this chapter. Now that you are children of God, imitate your Father, God, as dearly beloved children. As you feel his love, live a life of love. Jesus is our perfect example. He loved his Father so much and he loved us so much that he gave himself as a perfect sacrifice, pleasing to God, in order to bring us into a right relationship with the Father. Now we are called to love our Father and to love other people in such a way as to draw others into a right relationship with God. Paul gives some

very definite guidelines for this.

Called to purity (vv. 3-7). Paul has already given some very positive reasons for purity of life. Now he presents some of the negatives, or things which must be avoided if we are to represent Christ properly. Even a hint of sexual immorality is out of order. Sex is a wonderful gift from God, a part of his original design, for procreation and for husband and wife to enjoy together within the bonds of matrimony. When practiced outside the bonds of matrimony it is disobedience to God. It is a sin against God and humanity. It often results in destroyed marriages, in leaving children without a happy and well adjusted home in which to grow and receive orientation for a well adjusted life, and it often leaves those who participate with a terrible sense of shame and guilt. Anyone who has committed this sin, or any other sin, should remember that there is forgiveness based on true repentance and confession to God (1 John 1:8-9). All forms of obscenity, including language, gestures, and pictures, should be avoided by those who are in Christ. It has been said that one can often judge the character of people by the kinds of jokes they enjoy or laugh at. Can dirty jokes come from a clean heart or mind? God offers his children many wonderful blessings. To use these blessings wrongly hurts him and them. Paul classifies immorality, impurity, and greediness as idolatry, or loving these sins more than one loves God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words..." (v.6). There are those who would tell us that there is nothing wrong with sexual indulgence in any form and that it is well and legitimate to satisfy those God-given desires in any way the devil may direct whenever and with whomever one may wish. Don't be fooled by such talk even if it comes from a close friend or a high government official. Don't bring God's righteous wrath down upon yourself.

Called to provide light (vv. 8-14). You (Christians) were once darkness. Your very nature was sinful, but that has changed. You are now light in the Lord. You have a new nature. It is true that there continues to be a struggle against the old nature, but now you are able to win. Cause the light which you now are to shine. This depends on a close walk with him who is the source of true light. A close walk with him naturally results in such qualities as goodness, righteousness, and truth. Fill your minds and your lives with good and do not leave room for the evil men-

tioned in the paragraph above.

It is said that fish in an underground river in Mammoth Cave do not have eyes. They have been accustomed to absolute darkness so long that light does not affect them. The longer ones lives in the darkness of sin the greater becomes the danger of not recognizing the light and changing power of Christ. As Christians we are called to cause the light we are to shine now. A bright light drives away the darkness better than a weak one can. We are responsible for the lights we are.

Called to wisdom (vv. 15-20). Be careful how you live. Walk correctly, following a straight line. Live according to

what you know to be right.

Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery (a state of being abandoned, as one that cannot be saved). Too many depressed people turn to spirits (wine or other alcoholic drinks) rather than to the Holy Spirit for comfort. As with many drugs it takes more and more to bring relief, and soon they lose all control.

Verses 19 and 20 remind us of the value of music in our lives, especially psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Verse 20 also reminds us to live always with an attitude of grati-

tude toward God.

Kolb is a retired missionary living in Clinton.

Life and Work

Children of light Portrait of God's love



By Ruth Allen Hosea 1-3

The great truth of God's love is that he loves and cares for all people. Toyohiko Kagawa, a Japanese religious leader of a past generation, said that God came to him in an isolated hut by the seashore. Stricken with tuberculosis as a young man, Kagawa was in a state of quarantine even from his own family. One day a Christian missionary visited him with food and medicine. After the missionary visited, Kagawa asked himself why a stranger who was not even one of his countrymen would bother with him. The only answer he got was that God was in the missionary! On one occasion the young Kagawa asked the missionary if he was not afraid to be around one with such a disease. The missionary's answer was that although Kagawa's disease was contagious, love was more contagious. It was through love that Kagawa came to know God.

Centuries before Kagawa, Hosea, placed in a similar situation, could love his unfaithful wife Gomer because the love of God was contagious. Gomer was representative of unfaithful Israel who had left God in favor of other suitors. The scriptures paint a portrait of the undying love of God, who sought to reconcile a sinful people who were untrue to their God. The relationship between Hosea and Gomer vividly portrays the yearning heart of God for his erring

Unfaithfulness severs the marriage bond (1:2). Unfaithfulness by either partner is enough to sever the cord of love that binds a marriage. Therefore, the sinned-against faithful partner has two options — the marriage can be dissolved or forgiveness can be bestowed upon the unfaithful partner. Hosea chose to forgive Gomer, just as God chose to forgive Israel.

The husband-wife relationship of God and Israel (2:16, 19-22). There is nothing more beautiful than a true and genuine husband-wife relationship. A true marriage relationship is closely akin to God's relationship with his people. God and his people has entered into a contract the same as in marriage which both parties promise to honor and to keep forever. Mutual love and trust are neces-

A love that doesn't give up (3:1). God told Hosea to go and love a woman who was beloved of a paramour; she was also an adulteress. Hosea was in the terrible position of loving someone who loved another. How easy it would have been for Hosea to give up and to let Gomer continue in her sinful living! Likewise, it would have been easier for God to simply give up on his unfaithful children. God, as well as Hosea, did not give up! What a comforting thought. to know God loves and cares enough not to give up on the people he loves!

Love pays the price (3:2). Hosea's great love for Gomer prompted him to buy her back. He bought her for the price of a common slave. Even in Gomer's degradation, Hosea was capable of loving her and wanted to bring her back to their home. True love is willing to pay the price! Jesus Christ, our Lord, is the supreme example of one who was willing to pay the price of redemption. Paul states it best: "God commended his love toward us, in that, while

we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Love has a gentle, subdued effect (3:3-4). Hosea brought Gomer back to their home. However, an understanding was necessary between them. Hosea told Gomer to "clean up her act," to stay faithful, and then to count on him to reciprocate; he then expected Gomer to come home and to defer to the rule of proper husband-wife decorum. Meeting these requirements, Gomer had complete assurance that Hosea would fulfill his husbandly responsibilities.

The aim of love (3:5). In a broken relationship, the aim of love is to restore the marriage relationship to one of commitment and trust. God promises his blessings when the restored relationships are achieved.

Jesus said to the church at Ephesus, "Remember, repent. or be removed" (Rev. 2:5). God admonishes all people to remember vows made to him and to the marriage relationship. If infidelity persists in either circumstance, repentance is in order. Otherwise, refusal to be faithful to God and the marital vows results in severed relationships. Believers should respond in love to God and family!

Allen lives in Jackson.

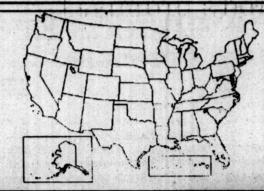
THE VILLAGE VIEW

Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027 (601) 922-2242



There is a need for couples to care for God's children on central Mississippi campuses.



Contact Mrs. Peggy Taylor (601) 922-2242

Coming soon to your mailbox...

Dear Village Friends:

Early this morning I sat out on my backyard patio and enjoyed the beauty of God's world as it awakened. I found myself praising God and thanking Him for all of His goodness toward me and my family. My mind quickly carried me back over the past five years in which I have served as your Director of The Baptist Children's Village. I surely cannot begin to list the blessings for which I am personally thankful, but I did try to remember some of the expressions of Thanksgiving that have come from the lips of children.

— One young boy gave thanks for not having to hide food any longer and for not having to go to bed hungry.

— One young girl thanked God for being able to remain at the same school for one entire school year.

— One young child thanked God for his cottage family and for houseparents who loved the Lord and taught him also to love the Lord.

— One special child thanked God for NOW having something to be thankful for.

I found my eyes wet with tears as I praised God for His goodness. I then thanked God for you and for your love for children and the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village. As you are reminded of your blessings, please keep your children at The Village in your prayers.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your support throughout 1994.

Have a Great Thanksgiving! Ronny Robinson



Come by and let us shake your hand and offer you some punch, coffee and information. We have a booth downstairs at the Mississippi Baptist Convention. See you there!



Mrs. Mary Posey (left) accepts her Level III Certificate from Supervisor, Mr. Doug Duncan. Mrs. Posey is a Child Care Worker in our Chemical Dependency Program on the India Nunnery Campus and has a special gift for nurturing both beautiful flowers and children. Thank you, Mary, for allowing God to use you in such a special way.



Social Workers on the India Nunnery Campus hosted a reception for teachers of Village young people. Several teachers from the Clinton Public School visited with their students and Village staff. Pictured is Social Worker, Gene Van Every talking with a Clinton teacher.



Child Care Workers on the India Nunnery Campus enjoy a rare outing to the Agricultural Museum. Free time is a special treat for these ladies who work so diligently to care for God's children. Judy Clark (left) and Supervisor, Mary Johnston (right) enjoy a relaxed game of checkers. Looking on are Mrs. Eloise Avery and Mrs. Mary Posey.



Pictured enjoying the museum are (left to right)
Mayme Crochet, Mamie Sims, Louise Haralson, Annie
Lee Ham, Mary Posey, and Eloise Avery. All are Child
Care Workers on the India Nunnery Campus.



Penny Oyler (right) from the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center Chemical Dependency Unit held a training session for Child Care Workers. The topic for this training session



was "How to Identify if a Child is Using Drugs or Alcohol." This was a very informative session and Child Care Workers seemed to learn much concerning this important issue.

Cambodia's needs keep Bruce and Gloria Carlton busy

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (BP) — The Sangker River is shallow and muddy pumpkin orange when it passes through Battambang, Cambodia's secondlargest city.

But it's cool and shallow enough for dozens of children to splash in when a hot tropical sun

sears the afternoon.

during the service.

It also was deep enough for Baptist leaders Leng Sovann and Sar Soth to baptize more than 30 new believers earlier this year. Church members stood on the grassy banks praying and singing

Uniformed soldiers stopped on the banks, and swimming children paddled closer to see the curious spectacle of adults being dipped under the swirling muddy water. One observer paid especially close attention. He was Bruce Carlton, coordinator of Cambodian work for Cooperative Services International (CSI), the Southern Baptist aid organization.

arlier that day Carlton visited Sovann and gave him pointers on how to baptize and what the Bible teaches about its meaning. In keeping with the

approach followed in Cambodia, Carlton works mostly in the background with leaders, rather than doing baptisms himself.

Since Carlton and his wife Gloria, from Georgetown, Ky., and Elkins, Ark., respectively, arrived four years ago, evangelical Christian missions have sprung up across the country. Many have been Baptist.

"I need to tell you how fast the Lord is moving," says Carlton. "In June 1992, when we returned from furlough, there were no Baptist churches. Exactly two years later there are 16 Baptist congregations and 10 preaching points reaching into seven of Cambodia's 21 provinces."

He adds, awe edging into his voice: "The Lord has just really blessed."

Now a strong Baptist church thrives in Phnom Penh, the capital city, where the Carltons live. Pastor Toun Kakda is a solid leader and the church hosts a training program to equip rural leaders — Baptists and others across the country.

Since training Kakda as a church planter, Carlton has trained 23 other leaders now ministering throughout Cambodia. One man, Savoeun at Kompong Chan, started four new groups in six weeks. Lee Sovann works with three groups in Battambang.

arlton invests his time in training such leaders who in turn will witness in diverse places. These days the most responsive places are rural - outside Phnom Penh and Battambang. About 85% of Cambodia's 8.5 million people live in

Carlton believes training Cambodians to work in these responsive areas is the best way to multiply his influence. The approach also dovetails with the two hats he wears in his work.

As a CSI development worker, Carlton has sparked humanitarian aid programs that help people

physically.
"We see humanitarian aid as part of our response as Christians to minister to all the needs of people," he explains. "At the same time I'm unashamedly a Southern Baptist Christian from the United States actively involved with the local Christian community. I do all my activities for the church as an individual Christian, not in my capacity with

His caution in defining his role is understandable. In some restrictive parts of the world, government pressures require CSI workers to keep much more separate from Christian ministry.

Ithough the Cambodian government has loosened Controls on religion, national laws still prohibit proselytizing. So far, Carlton's work within the fledgling Cambodian Baptist community has drawn no reprisals.

CSI humanitarian and social projects in Cambodia include a cloth-weaving project geared toward helping Cambodians develop self-sufficiency. Southern Baptists built several concrete-block buildings in Phnom Penh for less than \$8,000, then provided four wooden, foot-powered looms and four spring-driven warp machines, enough to set up a small mill for cloth production.

Another building houses a woodworking shop. Later, classes will be started to teach poultry production and hair cutting. Just outside the building are two fish ponds used to raise fish for food and to make fish meal for animal food. Similar projects are planned in other areas. CSI also has provided three English teachers in recent years.

Such simple projects are tuned to Cambodia's current economic conditions. Most people in the country are rural farmers. Many live in simple thatch houses set on stilts; the ground under the

house often becomes a shaded living room.

Warren Johnson)

When fire destroyed the homes of some 1,200 families in the Chhba Ampou district of Phnom Penh last year, CSI provided \$10,000 for emergency rice, dried fish, and cooking oil.

Carlton also helps the national government office overseeing occupational health and safety. CSI has provided computer and laboratory equipment, building assistance, and other assistance so the office can do a better job of looking after industrial workers.

CSI also distributes AIDS awareness brochures, and it funds a community health worker in the Battambang area. The worker presents seminars through churches and other groups to

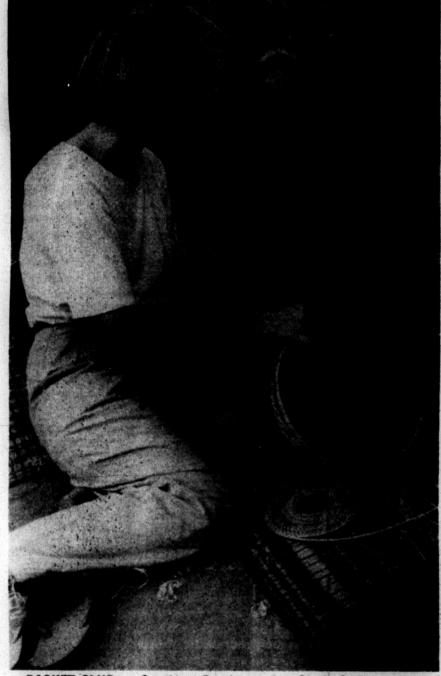
TEACHING THE WORD — Southern Baptist worker Bruce Carlton points out a Bible verse while meeting with Christians in a Cambodian commune. "I need to tell you how fast the Lord is moving," said Carlton, who oversees humanitarian projects in the troubled land. "In June 1992, when we returned from furlough, there were no Baptist churches. Exactly two years later there are 16 Baptist congregations and 10 preaching points reaching into seven of Cambodia's 21 provinces." Carlton invests much of his time in training leaders who in turn will witness in diverse places. These days the most responsive places are rural. (BP photo by

> make the public aware of the growing presence of AIDS, which is increasing faster in Asia than any other part of the world. Prostitution is a major industry in Phnom Penh. One street is known as "Waving Street" because so many prostitutes try to wave down customers.

n Kompong Thom province. CSI has appropriated funds to reconstruct a community medical clinic. That project is on hold for now, because warfare has erupted in the area. The last time Carlton visited there he had to have a police escort.

In a new venture, CSI will bring in three short-term workers to help Cambodia's national Olympic committee and teach at the national sports school. The three volunteers are expected to have a tremendous influence on Cambodia's national sports program and at the same time be good ambassadors for Christ.

(to be continued next week)



BASKET CLUB — Southern Baptist worker Gloria Carlton enjoys a laugh with a member of the basket-weaving cooperative she started at a Baptist church in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Southern Baptist humanitarian and social projects in Cambodia, like the cooperative, are geared toward helping Cambodians develop self-sufficiency. The simple projects are tuned to Cambodia's current economic conditions. Most people in the country are rural farmers. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Bibliocipher By Charles Marx

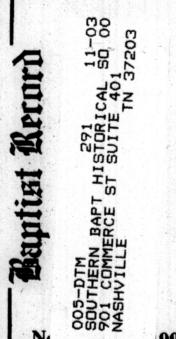
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MAXG PBEE B VTNLX RHN MH WPXEE BG MABL IETVX, BG MAX ETGW MATM B ZTOX MH RHNK YTMAXKL, YHK XOXK TGW XOXK.

CXKXFBTA LXOXG: LXOXG.

This week's clue: X Equals E.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs Four: Four.



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